

# Human Relations News

from the **NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

HUGH J. ADDONIZIO, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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Newark Human Rights Commission

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JUL 64

Vol. 6 No. 2

A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

June-July, 1963

## Highlights of the Commission's June Meeting

The June meeting of The Newark Human Rights Commission was marked by the presentation of a plaque signed by Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio and Daniel S. Anthony, to Alexander Mark, Chairman of The Newark Human Rights Commission since 1958 and a member of the Commission since 1955. Daniel S. Anthony paid tribute to Mr. Mark and cited the modesty, sincerity and integrity displayed by Al Mark during crucial periods of the civil rights struggle.

### Introduction of New Commission Members

Mr. Anthony introduced the newly appointed members of the Commission. Mr. Benjamin Epstein, Mr. Herbert H. Tate and Deputy Chief Richard J. Foley. Mr. Robert Phillips, the recently appointed Field Worker and Research Assistant was also introduced.

### Brotherhood Youth Institute Scholarships

Walter Chambers, Associate Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and Director of the Brotherhood Youth Institute spoke of the coming Institute which will be held August 25-30, 1963 and will consist of 150 high school students of many different backgrounds.

### International Human Relations Workshop

Mrs. Sylvia Josephson told of the plans of the International Human Re-

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

## Mayor Addonizio Names Three to Newark Human Rights Commission



Left to right: Mr. Herbert H. Tate, Deputy Chief Richard J. Foley, Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, Mr. Benjamin Epstein and Mr. Robert F. Phillips.

Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio announced on Friday, May 24, 1963, the appointment of 3 new members to the Newark Human Rights Commission.

Named to serve on the Commission are: Benjamin Epstein, Weequahic H.S. principal; Deputy Chief Richard J. Foley, Newark Police Department; and Herbert H. Tate, attorney.

Mr. Epstein is a native and life-long resident of Newark; he has been associated with the Newark School System for the past 25 years. Mr. Epstein is the N. J. State President of American Jewish Congress and a recent Brother-

hood Award recipient from the Commission's February presentations.

Deputy Chief Foley, appointed to the Newark Police Department October 1, 1940, has commanded the Police Academy, Inspection Office and Investigation Division. He issued the following statement upon notification of his appointment:

"I am very happy to accept my appointment to the Human Rights Commission. I recognize the need for better liaison between the Commission and the Police Department. I am in full

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

## Puerto Rican Contributions Study to be Made

The Newark Human Rights Commission, under the direction of Ralph Zinn, Assistant Director and Mrs. Marie Gonzalez, Puerto Rican and Spanish Affairs Coordinator, is preparing a pamphlet about the Puerto Rican and Spanish contributions to the United States.

Mr. Zinn and Mrs. Gonzalez, in the introduction to the pamphlet, point out that "many of America's traditions and basic ways of life are due to the legacies of the peoples and nations whose culture and national characteristics washed upon our shores and refreshed our ultimate culture through time."

"All of us have roots among the nations of the world and, naturally, are proud of the contributions made by the respective ethnic groups, religious and ancestral inhabitants."

"One of the cultures adding an extra dimension to the 'American way of life' is that of Spanish origin. We are richer today, in our literature, music, art and language because of the Spanish contributions to that fantastic panoramic tapestry that has become American culture."

## June Meeting

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

lations Workshop which was composed of 60 people, 30 from throughout the world and 30 from the United States. The Commission awarded four scholarships to the Workshop. The recipients were Mrs. Marie Gonzalez, Mr. Ralph Zinn, Mr. Malcolm Ellington and Rev. Kim Jefferson.

## Statement On Educational Activity

Mr. Benjamin Epstein, Principal of Weequahic High School read a report he had written titled "Expanded Educational Opportunity". A motion was made and unanimously passed that a specially appointed committee of the Commission confer with the Mayor and urge him to issue a call to the Governor, the State commissioner of Education, federal and state representatives to a meeting on educational equality.

## Phillips Appointed to Field Worker, Research Assistant

Robert F. Phillips was recently appointed to the Newark Human Rights Commission as Field Worker and Research Assistant.

A native of Passaic, New Jersey, Mr. Phillips is a graduate of Passaic High School. Bob had several honors bestowed upon him in the field of sports and general achievement. The most outstanding of these in his opinion, was as a representative of Passaic County to the New Jersey Boys' State Government.

Bob was an outstanding athlete at Passaic in track and field and football. He received several scholarship offers to representative schools in the United



Robert F. Phillips

States and matriculated to Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina.

While attending Smith, Bob continued as an outstanding track figure in the N.C.A.A. Conference; he also became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi.

Upon graduation, he received the B.A. degree in Sociology and Psychology.

His position with the Commission will entail coordinating youth activities and attempting to diminish the dropout rate in the Newark Schools. He will also be responsible for investigating complaints and grievances of Newark citizens which relate to prejudice and discrimination.

## May Commission Meeting Held at Newark Library

The May meeting of the Newark Human Rights Commission, held at the Newark Library because it has a larger seating capacity than Room B-21, presented to the public the views and aims of the Black Muslims sect which advocates separation of the races and preaches Negro superiority.

James XXX of East Orange, Minister of the movement here, stated "that freedom and justice for the Negro can be obtained only by the establishment of a Negro nation to be carved out of U. S. territory"—to be subsidized by "our former slave masters who are obliged to provide such a land. . ."

## Question Period

James XXX spoke for 30 minutes and answered questions for 60 minutes thereafter. Douglas Eldridge, Newark News reporter at the meeting covered the meeting and reported some events in the following way:

"When asked about race hatred Minister James replied that Muslims are 'taught to love ourselves and our own kind and if we have any love left over, we should let it spill over onto anybody else.'" He said the whites who have oppressed Negroes for centuries have a nerve to sit there with straight faces and tell us we're preaching hatred. He added: 'You're lucky we're not at war in America right now'."

"Minister James contended that Negroes had been selected by God for a special destiny because they are the most rejected and despised of men. He also claimed that the black man was the original man and the white races and all the life that is on this earth is descended from the Negro."

"He (James XXX) said Negroes should reject any offer of integration by whites as a hypocritical move to deceive the black people that the 400 year old enemy of equality and justice is suddenly their friend'."

The Newark Human Rights Commission sponsored the appearance of the Black Muslim leader in an effort to present to the public, the philosophy of a group which has become a strong force in the development of America's contemporary Negro-white relations.

## EDITORIAL

A Negro's Thoughts—  
100 Years Later

This centennial celebration of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is a glorious and a tragic occasion.

The glory of these past 100 years lies in the remarkable progress our Country has made in erasing the scourge of slavery. The glory is represented by the new spark and spirit of life which has revitalized our struggles for total freedom. The glory is manifest by our reactions to the mid-twentieth century challenge of complete and irrevocable equality. And that glory is being fulfilled in different ways by the passive resistance of Martin Luther King, by the strides of the N.A.A.C.P., by the sit-downers and sit-inners and Black Muslims, by the militant stand of C.O.R.E. and James Baldwin and Thurgood Marshall and James Meredith and thousands of other unnamed *New Negroes*, who are no longer willing to sit back and wait for the white man's brand of equality.

The glory is best exemplified by a Dick Gregory who at long last has brought cultural Negro humor out into the open so that even the white man can laugh at it, because it is not directed against him, but against the idiocies of his racist philosophy.

The glory is finally a growing groundswell and culmination of many separate actions all over our land to right the wrongs of the past 300 years, so that our children may for the first time in American history breathe the free air of liberty and equality which Lincoln envisioned as the end result of his great Proclamation.

The tragedy is that it has taken us 100 years to get warmed up to fight the real battle. So far we have been waging only sporadic skirmishes. We feel a little better over these holding actions, because at least after the past 20 year struggle, we can now go to a movie or eat in a restaurant or even buy a house—if we're willing to pay a few thousand dollars extra for it.

Yes, our salaries have now improved so that they are now more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  that of the white population. A mere 20 years ago it was only  $\frac{1}{4}$ . So we

(Continued on page 4, column 3)

Weequahic Section Celebration  
Points Out Area's Advantages

**FAIR EXCHANGE:** Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, seated, hands signed proclamation to Reginald Hale, co-chairman of the "It's Great to Live in Weequahic Week" program committee. In exchange, Murray Aboff, president of the Weequahic Community Council, gives the Mayor the first poster announcing the activities for the week. Lee Bernstein, South Ward Councilman, looks on at right. Proclamation set aside week of May 19-26 as "It's Great to Live in Weequahic Week."

"It's Great to Live in Weequahic Week" was proclaimed by Mayor Addonizio and was celebrated during the week of May 19-26, to commemorate the effort of the Weequahic Community Council to spotlight the advantages of the Weequahic area.

The Council, as part of its program of planned integration, set aside that week to stress the positive, rather than the negative, approach to residing in the area. "For years we have been critical of many aspects of urban living, including schools, tax rates, and city facilities," according to Murray Aboff, president of the Council, "and many residents of Weequahic may have misunderstood and felt that there were no advantages within the area."

"Naturally, one doesn't attempt to cure a patient by radical surgery if that patient is not in need of such treatment. Therefore, we of the Council, feel that we have a strong, healthy community which needs some improvement and is well worth living in and fighting for."

Among the positive aspects cited for the area are the following:

**Time proximity to New York City—**25 minutes from the heart of Manhattan. A "gold coast" is springing up along Elizabeth Avenue because of access to the Airport and major travel arteries.

**Established facilities** such as a library system, a museum, and other cultural aspects of urban living which are unknown to many of the suburban areas which have received the exodus from Newark to date.

**No Hidden Taxes—**In spite of the rise in Newark taxes and continual reports of Newark taxes being higher than suburban communities, a study of tax rates reveals that many of the suburbs, to which residents of the Weequahic area have moved, require higher tax payments, through different assessment methods, as well as continual hidden taxes, such as a school tax, garbage collection tax, sewer assessments tax, etc.

(Continued on page 4, column 1)

# Addonizio Names Three to Commission

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

accord with the Mayor's decision to bring the Commission up to full strength as I believe it will increase the mutual understanding and cooperation between the Police Department and the Commission".

Mr. Tate, an attorney and former Assistant Minority Leader of the N. J. State Assembly, is co-owner and publisher of *The N. J. Herald News*. He is a member of the Board of Directors, NCCJ; the Urban League and first vice-president of the N. J. State Conference, NAACP.

Mr. Tate served as vice-chairman to

the N. J. Commission on Civil Rights; Newark Board of Education; Vice-President, Associated Boards of Education, Essex County; Referee, Juvenile Conference Committee of the Essex County Juvenile Court; Cultural Attache, U. S. Embassy, Karachi, Pakistan, 1951-53. Counsel for parents in the Orange, Englewood, Plainfield and Franklin Twp. School Segregation Cases.

The naming of the 3 Commissioners brings the Commission to a strength of 13 members for the first time in 3 years, and is one of the steps in Mayor Addonizio's program to strengthen and expand the Commission.

## Weequahic Celebration

(Continued from page 3, column 3)

Many complaints have been made about schools in Newark. The Weequahic area is still served by one of the finest high schools in the Nation. Complaints registered against some of our schools have been made with an eye to maintaining high standards which have been present in the area in the past and for correcting some of the new evils which are also typical of many suburban schools.

**Facilities and services**—Fire insurance rates in Newark are lower than in most suburban areas because of a highly competent fire department. Other city facilities are available here which are unknown in most suburbs.

**Beth Israel Hospital**—The Beth Israel Hospital has just voted to spend more than six million dollars on a modernization program. This display of faith in the Weequahic area should give pause to some of the residents who are doubtful about their stay in Newark.

**Shopping**—Neighborhood shopping zones along Bergen St., Lyons Avenue,

and Chancellor Avenue are still attractive to many non-Newarkers.

In view of these factors, the Council is hoping to help revive a spirit of pride within the Weequahic area.

Many former residents of the Weequahic area have left their homes to take up residence in what they expected to be "a lily-white community". In the past year or two, they have discovered that even though they ran, there was no place to hide. Negro families have recently come to such hitherto inaccessible communities as Livingston, Short Hills and Maplewood.

Add to all of these positive factors one important aspect which concerns the suburbs and the Weequahic area—integration. Regardless of how any individual feels about the fact of integration, it must never be overlooked that this Newark community is the best integrated area on the Eastern Seaboard.

"Many of our residents in Weequahic overlook the fact that we have all of the advantages of a suburb coupled with the advantages of big city living," Mr. Aboff said.

## Editorial

(Continued from page 3, column 1)

have made progress and we do feel a little bit better about it.

The tragedy is that none of us can really feel good until every Negro child is born into an integrated society which charges no extra price for his dark skin.

The tragedy is, that day will never come until each of us gives more time and energy to making mankind's greatest dream come true.

The tragedy is that too many of our leaders have left our fold and have not been accepted into the mainstream of the cultural and intellectual growth of America; that in fact, a Negro is still a Negro and not a full fledged human being in too many quarters of our land.

Our tragedy will become our real glory when each of us can look in the mirror and proudly say: Even though it is 110 years late—I myself contributed to the ultimate recognition of my children and grandchildren as citizens of dignity, living in a land of equality and understanding.

And finally—should it take more than another 10 years, we shall all know that we were instrumental in transforming tragedy into glory for all mankind.

## SELECTED READINGS

Einstein, Benjamin R. and Arnold Forster. **SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS**. Farrar, New York. 1962. \$4.50

A documentation of the still existent, albeit declining, discrimination against Jews in housing, higher education, and employment. The authors feel that the area of housing is the one which deserves the most immediate attention.

Peck, James. **FREEDOM RIDE**. New York. 1962. \$3.50.

A stirring account of the "Freedom Ride" by an active participant. Beginning with the genesis of this movement in 1947, the book carries the story to the present and even examines the consequences for our country if there is too long a lag in attaining Negro equality.

## STAFF

Daniel S. Anthony, Executive Director  
Mrs. Marie Gonzalez, Spanish Balza Coordinator  
Robert F. Phillips, Field Worker and Research Assistant

Ralph Zinn, Assistant Director  
John T. Barnes, Community Relations Specialist

## COMMISSIONERS

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